

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

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E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: TSPA, EAID, MA, US

SUBJ: NASA STATION NEGOTIATIONS

REFS: A) TANANARIVE 0268; B) STATE 41809; C) STATE 44527

BEGIN SUMMARY: NEW APPROACH MADE TO GEN ANDRIAMAHAZO IN EFFORT OBTAIN EARLY FAVORABLE MALAGASY AGREEMENT ON RENEWAL NASA STATION. HE WILL TAKE UP WITHIN GOVT, PROBABLY AT 15MAR COUNCIL MINISTERS MEETING. END SUMMARY.

1. SON 12MAR, I CALLED ON MIN TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT GEN ANDRIAMAHAZO IN EFFORT ACCELERATE FAVORABLE MALAGASY AGREEMENT TO EXTENSION OF NASA STATION. I OUTLINED TO HIM:

(A) NASA NEED DECISION BEFORE 01APR WHETHER MOVDI ELSEWHERE OR RETAIN HERE SPECIAL EQUIP FOR CONTROLLING SERIES OF METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITES;

(B) LINK U.S. HAS BEEN OBLIGED MAKE FOR CONGRESSIONAL REASONS BETWEEN RAILROAD LOAN AGREEMENT AND RENEWAL OF NASA STATION; AND

(C) DOUBLING OF RENTAL OFFER FOR 1973 AND SUCCEEDING YEARS (AS WELL AS REITERATION OF EQUIPMENT OFFER AS SYMBOLIC GESTURE FOR PAST USE OF LAND AND PRESENTATION WRITTEN SUMMARY OF OTHER EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS FURNISHED BY NASA IN PAST AND CURRENT

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NASA INPUTS INTO MALAGASY ECONOMY).

2. ANDRIAMAHAZO'S RECEPTION WAS FRIENDLY AND CORDIAL AS ALWAYS. SAID HE WOULD AGAIN TAKE UP PROPOSED AGREEMENT WITHIN GOVT ON BASIS OF ABOVE PRESENTATION, PROBABLY AT COUNCIL MINISTERS MEETING ON FRIDAY, 15MAR.

3. HE CONFIRMED THAT FONMIN RATSIRAKA IS THE OBSTACLE TO REACHING AGREEMENT. THE LATTER HAS EXPRESSED POSITION U.S. CAN LEAVE IF IO DOES NOT WANT MEET MALAGASY TERMS.

4. ANDRIAMAHAZO REITERATED HIS OWN READINESS PROCEED WITH RENUEWAL OF AGREEMENT. STATED MIN ECON & FINANCE RAMAROSON ALSO IN FAVOR. OTHER MINISTERS HAVE NOT TAKEN POSITION DURING PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS, BUT HE SURE THEY WILL GO ALONG WITH HIS POSITION.

5. COMMENTS: WE HAVE IN OTHER CONTEXT HEARD THAT ONE MINISTER'S OPPOSITION CAN BLOCK GOMR AGREEMENT ON COURSE OF ACTION, BUT HAVE NEVER REALLY HAD HARD CONFIRMATION OF THIS. IF SO, WE COULD STILL BE IN TROUBLE IF PRESENT APPROACH NOT SUFFICIENT OVERCOME RATSIRAKA'S OPPOSITION. BUT I AM HOPEFUL, AND WE STILL HAVE WASHINGTON-AUTHORIZED LEEWAY TO GO TO RENTAL OF \$100,000 (STATE 011748) WHICH I MAY USE IF AND WHEN IT BECOMES APPROPRIATE.

MENDENHALL

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